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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1.-2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim + 39, wherein at the collecting step, the environmental information is collected through a radio communication system or a wired communication system connecting the environmental sensors and the base device.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim + 39, wherein at the collecting step, each environment sensor transmits the environmental information either automatically or in response to a request from the base device.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim + 39, further comprising the step of:
commanding a measurement condition setting update from the base device to at least one of the plurality of environment sensors when the environmental information measured by the ~~at least one~~ environment sensor meets a prescribed condition for judging a need for sensor measurement condition change.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim + 39, wherein at the providing step, the base device provides the environmental information for a current location of the ~~individual~~ user which is registered by the ~~individual~~ user in advance or automatically detected according to a communication with the ~~individual~~ user, or the environmental information for a location close to the current location, in response to an information acquisition request made by the ~~individual~~ user through the network.

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7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 39, wherein at the ~~measuring~~ collecting step, each environment sensor ~~measures~~ collects an amount of pollens scattering at a the region in which each environment sensor is arranged, such that the base device ~~collects~~ pollen amount information from each environment sensor at the collecting step, processes the pollen amount information to obtain pollen information at the processing step, and provides at least a portion of the pollen information at the providing step.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein at the processing step, the base device applies statistical information processing including integrating processing and averaging processing with respect to the pollen amount information collected from the environment sensors, such that the base device stores the pollen amount information and processed pollen amount information at the storing step.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein at the storing step, the base device stores the pollen amount information along with date and time information indicating date and time at which the pollen amount information is obtained, and
the base device processes the pollen amount information for each region as a function of the date and time information at the providing step.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein at the processing step, the base device judges whether each region is in a state with little pollens or a state with many pollens, according to the pollen amount information, and
the base device provides the pollen information indicating a state of each region as the state with little pollens or the state with many pollens at the providing step.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein at the processing step, the base device produces a pollen distribution area information indicating regions in the state with little

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pollens and regions in the state with many pollens in a form of a map, or a pollen border information indicating a border between the regions in the state with little pollens and regions in the state with many pollens on the map, and

the base device provides the pollen information including the pollen distribution area information or the pollen border information at the providing step.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the processing step includes the steps of:

storing the pollen information indicating the state of each region in a pollen information database;

storing the user information of each user including a user ID and a user specified region which are registered by each user, in a personal information database; and

updating the pollen information database when the state of one of the plurality of regions has changed as a result of repeating the judging part of the processing step by using newly obtained pollen amount information, while searching through the personal information database to acquire user IDs of relevant users who registered said ~~one~~ region that the state has been changed as the user specified region;

wherein the base device provides the pollen information for notifying a change of the state of said ~~one~~ region that the state has been changed to the relevant users according to the user IDs acquired from the personal information database at the providing step.

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13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the processing step includes the steps of:

judging a pollen amount level of each region according to the pollen amount information for each region as one of a plurality of pollen amount levels, and storing the pollen amount level of each region in a pollen information database;

storing the user information of each user including a user ID, a user specified region, and a correspondence table indicating a correspondence between the plurality of pollen amount levels and a plurality of pollen allergy symptoms of each user which are registered by each user, in a personal information database;

searching through the pollen information database to acquire the pollen amount level of the user specified region of each a selected one of the users, while searching through the personal information database to acquire the correspondence table of each the selected user; and

obtaining one pollen allergy symptom of each the selected user that corresponds to the pollen amount level of the user specified region of each the selected user acquired from the pollen information database according to the correspondence table of each the selected user acquired from the personal information database;

wherein the base device provides the pollen information including a pollen warning information that indicates said one pollen allergy symptom to each the selected user at the providing step.

14.-15. (Cancelled).

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16. (Currently amended) The environmental information providing system of claim ~~14~~ 40, wherein the first communication unit collects the environmental information through a radio communication system or a wired communication system connecting the environmental sensors and the environmental information providing system.

17. (Currently amended) The environmental information providing system of claim ~~14~~ 40, wherein each environment sensor transmits the environmental information either automatically or in response to a request from the environmental information providing system.

18. (Currently amended) The environmental information providing system of claim ~~14~~ 40, wherein the first communication unit also commands a measurement condition setting update to at least one of the plurality of environment sensors ~~when the environmental~~ information measured by the ~~at least one~~ environment sensor meets a prescribed condition for judging a need for sensor measurement condition change.

19. (Currently amended) The environmental information providing system of claim ~~14~~ 40, wherein the second communication unit provides the environmental information for a current location of the ~~individual~~ user which is registered by the ~~individual~~ user in advance or automatically detected according to a communication with the ~~individual~~ user, or the environmental information for a location close to the current location, in response to an information acquisition request made by the ~~individual~~ user through the network.

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20. (Currently amended) The environmental information providing system of claim 14 ~~40~~, wherein ~~each environment sensor measures an amount of pollens scattering at a region in which each environment sensor is arranged~~, the first communication unit collects pollen amount information from each environment sensor, the processing unit processes the pollen amount information to obtain pollen information, and the second communication unit provides at least a portion of the pollen information.

21. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 20, wherein the processing unit applies statistical information processing including integrating processing and averaging processing with respect to the pollen amount information collected from the environment sensors, and

the database stores the pollen amount information and processed pollen amount information.

22. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 20, wherein the database stores the pollen amount information along with date and time information indicating date and time at which the pollen amount information is obtained, and

the processing unit processes the pollen amount information for each region as a function of the date and time information.

23. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 20, wherein the processing unit judges whether each region is in a state with little pollens or a state with many pollens, according to the pollen amount information, and

the second communication unit provides the pollen information indicating a state of each region as the state with little pollens or the state with many pollens.

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24. (Original) The environmental information providing system of claim 23, wherein the processing unit produces a pollen distribution area information indicating regions in the state with little pollens and regions in the state with many pollens in a form of a map, or a pollen border information indicating a border between the regions in the state with little pollens and regions in the state with many pollens on the map, and

the second communication unit provides the pollen information including the pollen distribution area information or the pollen border information.

25. (Currently amended) The environmental information providing system of claim 23, wherein the processing unit stores the pollen information indicating the state of each region in a pollen information database; stores the user information of each user including a user ID and a user specified region which are registered by each user, in a personal information database; and updates the pollen information database when the a state of one of the plurality of regions has changed as a result of repeating the judging part of the processing step by using newly obtained pollen amount information, while searching through the personal information database to acquire user IDs of relevant users who registered said one region that the state has been changed as the user specified region; and

the second communication unit provides the pollen information for notifying a change of the state of said one region that the state has been changed to the relevant users according to the user IDs acquired from the personal information database.

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26. (Currently amended) The environmental information providing system of claim 20, wherein the processing unit judges a pollen amount level of each region according to the pollen amount information for each region as one of a plurality of pollen amount levels, and stores the pollen amount level of each region in a pollen information database; stores the user information of each user including a user ID, a user specified region, and a correspondence table indicating a correspondence between the plurality of pollen amount levels and a plurality of pollen allergy symptoms of each user which are registered by each user, in a personal information database; searches through the pollen information database to acquire the pollen amount level of the user specified region of ~~each~~ a selected one of the users, while searching through the personal information database to acquire the correspondence table of ~~each~~ the selected user; and obtains one pollen allergy symptom of ~~each~~ the selected user that corresponds to the pollen amount level of the user specified region of ~~each~~ the selected user acquired from the pollen information database according to the correspondence table of ~~each~~ the selected user acquired from the personal information database; and

the second communication unit provides the pollen information including a pollen warning information that indicates said one pollen allergy symptom to ~~each~~ the selected user.

27.-38. (Cancelled).

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39. (Currently amended) A method for providing environmental information to users, comprising the steps of:

~~measuring environmental information automatically by each of a plurality of environment sensors arranged at a plurality of regions;~~

collecting the environmental information measured by each a plurality of environment sensors arranged at a plurality of regions automatically in a base device;

storing the environmental information collected from the plurality of environment sensors in the base device;

processing the environmental information in the base device according to a user information of ~~an individual user~~ one of the users;

providing processed environmental information from the base device to the ~~individual~~ user through a network connecting the users and the base device; and

commanding a measurement condition setting update of all sensors in ~~a region~~ one of the plurality of regions for carrying out ~~the a~~ measurement from the base device, when at least one environment sensor operated to carry out the measurement in ~~a selected region~~ the one of the plurality of regions measures a large amount of pollens.

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40. (Currently amended) An environmental information providing system, comprising:
~~a plurality of environment sensors arranged at a plurality of regions and configured to measure environmental information automatically;~~

a first communication unit configured to collect the environmental information measured by ~~each environment sensor~~ a plurality of environment sensors arranged at a plurality of regions automatically;

a database configured to store the environmental information collected from the plurality of environment sensors by the first communication unit;

a processing unit configured to process the environmental information stored in the database according to a user information of ~~an~~ one of a plurality of individual users;

a second communication unit configured to provide processed environmental information obtained by the processing unit to the ~~individual~~ user through a network connecting the users and the environmental information providing system; and

a commanding unit configured to command a measurement condition setting update of all sensors in ~~a region~~ one of the plurality of regions for carrying out the a measurement, when ~~some~~ at least one environment sensor operated to carry out the measurement in a ~~selected region~~ the one of the plurality of regions measures a large amount of pollens.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising applying information protection to the user information and the processed environmental information.

42. (New) The environmental information providing system of claim 40, wherein the processing unit and the second communication unit apply an information protection to the user information and the processed environmental information.